

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 CA-01 FBIE-00

SCS-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0001

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, JA, PINT

SUBJECT: JOHN HERBERT MEIER: MID-JULY TOKYO VISIT

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5971, (B) CANBERRA 5923

- (C) WELLINGTON 3918

1. ADDRESSEES MAY FIND OF INTEREST FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN REGARD TO MEIER VISIT TO TOKYO EARLIER IN JULY THAT CAME TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION. POLCOUNS RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL LATE EVENING JULY 6 FROM MASATAKE (PAUL) TAKAHASHI, JOURNALIST WITH GOOD POLITICAL CONNECTIONS, FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN, AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, WHO ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFO THAT WOULD ESTABLISH BONA FIDES (OR SHED DOUBT ON SAME) OF MEIER. LATTER, WHOM HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN, HAD APPROACHED TAKAHASHI THAT DAY USING NAME OF CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE OF TAKAHASHI IN CALIFORNIA, TO ASK WHETHER TAKAHASHI WOULD
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ACT AS AGENT FOR \$25 MILLION PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TONGA AIRPORT. MAIER PRODUCED DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING HIM TO ACT ON BEHALF OF KING OF TONGA, SHOWED HIS TONGA DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WITH JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC VISA ISSUED IN AUSTRALIA, AND NAME CARD DESIGNATING HIM AS DIRECTOR OF BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. HE ALSO HAD IN HAND DOCUMENT ON JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY LETTERHEAD ATTESTING THAT

HE HAD SEEN FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA AND ALLEGED HE HAD ALSO HAD APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER. TAKAHASHI SAID IT ALL SOUNDED A BIT FISHY, BUT THERE WAS A GOOD BIT OF MONEY INVOLVED AND HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH HIS CALIFORNIA FRIEND BY PHONE TO DO ANY CHECKING. INASMUCH AS MEIER WAS LEAVING JAPAN THE NEXT DAY, HE SOUGHT OUR ASSISTANCE. ON BASIS OF INFO IN EMBASSY FILES WE WERE ABLE TO ALERT TAKAHASHI TO STEER CLEAR OF MEIER. WE ALSO DISCOVERED HE HAD NOT SEEN SONODA AS ALLEGED. BRITISH EMBASSY FURTHER INFORMED US THEY ARE INSTRUCTED UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES TO ISSUE UK VISA TO MEIER, AN UNUSUAL MEASURE, ACCORDING TO UK EMBASSY OFFICER, INASMUCH AS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE IS INSTRUCTION TO REFER SUCH A CASE TO LONDON. WE ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE OF MEIER'S PRESENCE IN JAPAN.

2. AT THIS WRITING WE ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT MEIER MAY BE UP TO IN JAPAN, BUT WE HAVE BROUGHT MOFA UP TO DATE ON HIS MOST RECENT ESCAPADE IN EVENT GOJ WISHES TO KEEP TABS ON HIM. WE WOULD HAVE REPORTED ABOVE INFO SOONER, BUT CANBERRA/NEW ZEALAND TRAFFIC DEVELOPED WHILE POLCOUNS ON LEAVE. MANSFIELD

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